



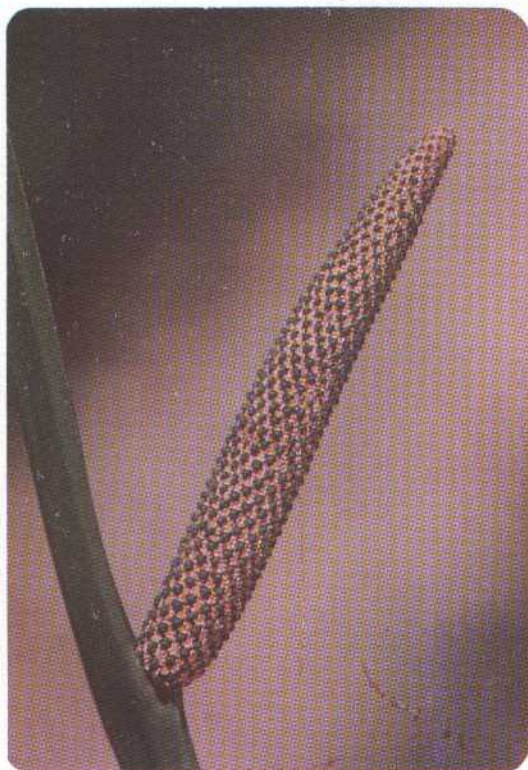
SWEETFLAG
Acorus Calamus

WVU

Located in swamps and along streams throughout the Division. Also known as Calamus, Flag-root, Myrtle-flag, -sedge or -grass, Sweet-myrtle and Beewort.

A perennial, erect herb from long, horizontal, branched rootstocks (the aromatic rootstocks are the source of the drug Calamus). Flowering stalks are 3-angled with a keel on the back and channeled in front. Leaves are linear, erect, sharp-pointed and sharp-edged with a rigid midvein running the entire length; 0.5 to 1 m long, 0.7 to 2 cm broad. Base of leaves forming sheathes around the stalks. The spike-like spadix is 4 to 9 cm long, covered with minute greenish-yellow flowers, becoming 1.2 to 2 cm thick in fruit; blooming from May to August. The spadix appears to arise from the middle of the stalk but actually terminates it. A leaf-like spathe is the apparent extension of the stalk.

The plant is used as food by muskrats.



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Notes